

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Criminal Investigation Division
Investigative Activity Report**

Case Number:

0700-M745

Case Title:

Cass County PWSD 9

Subject of Report:

Interview of [REDACTED] - December 12, 2017

Reporting Office:

Kansas City Area Office

Activity Date:

December 12, 2017

Reporting Official and Date:

(b) (6), (b) [REDACTED]

Special Agent

13-DEC-2017, Signed by: (b) (6), [REDACTED]

Approving Official and Date:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

Assistant Special Agent in Charge

14-DEC-2017, Approved by: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]

Assistant Special Agent in Charge

SYNOPSIS

On December 12, 2017, SA (b) (6), [REDACTED] and (b) (6), (b) [REDACTED] of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources interviewed [REDACTED] employee of Cass #9 located in Harrisonville MO, regarding drinking water sample collection for the district.

DETAILS

On December 12, 2017, SA (b) (6), (b) [REDACTED] and (b) (6), (b) [REDACTED] of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) interviewed [REDACTED] employee of the Cass County (Missouri) Public Water and Sewer District (PWSD) #9 ("Cass #9") located in Harrisonville MO, regarding sample collection for the district. Upon initiation of the interview, SA [REDACTED] and (b) [REDACTED] presented their official credentials to [REDACTED]. He provided the following information:

[REDACTED] started at Cass #9 in September 2011. His current official title is [REDACTED]. He holds a DS-III certification for Drinking Water Distribution System Operator and a DW-C certification for Drinking Water Treatment System Operator. He received his certifications in [REDACTED] during his [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] district. He met and worked with (b) (6), (b) [REDACTED] while at [REDACTED]. Prior to that, he was in the [REDACTED]

When [REDACTED] first started at Cass #9, he met (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED], another Cass #9 employee. He asked her who collected the drinking water samples, and she told him (b) (6), [REDACTED] collected them. (b) (6), [REDACTED] suggested [REDACTED] should collect the samples because she thought [REDACTED] wasn't collecting them at all the sampling sites due to the amount of time it would take to travel between each site.

[REDACTED] said about two to three years ago, (b) (6), (b) (7) [REDACTED] at MDNR called to notify the district that one of the samples was 'bad.' Upon hearing that, [REDACTED] became upset and said "that can't be."

[REDACTED] said [REDACTED] is always in the office by 07:30 or 08:00, even on sampling days. [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] would have to start sampling at 02:00 or 03:00 in the morning to finish by 08:00, due to the size of the district. The samples only have a 30-hour holding time, so the samples have to get to the state courier by 10:00 or 10:30 for transport to the lab. The drop-off location for the state courier is the county health department. The samples are dropped off at the receptionist's desk. [REDACTED] usually leaves the district office around 09:30 to head to the health department. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] preps the sample collection forms the day before, and [REDACTED] assumes the sample time and location are not accurate and are just written in.

[REDACTED] stated the district does not have a time clock, but [REDACTED] always logs in to his computer upon arrival at the office, so he can check the farm logs/crop prices. [REDACTED] farms in the area and does so for about three to four months out of the year. However, [REDACTED] is not usually in the office when [REDACTED] arrives each morning. [REDACTED] stated the first person to arrive would have to disable the office's security system. The system is disabled by entering a four-digit code, which is unique to each employee. [REDACTED] stated the

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security system is Atronic Alarms (913-362-0000) and the district's computer contractor is Smart Solutions (816-380-6870).

█████ said he, (b) (6), and (b) (6), (b) (7) all had suspicions that █████ was not traveling to each sampling site to collect the samples as required. Then, about six months ago, he and (b) (6) were addressing some water main issues and getting low chlorine results. Because of the low results, they called Wheeler and asked her to call the sampling sites to notify the residents that they would be coming over to check chlorine levels in the water. One of the residents (b) (6), called (b) (6), (b) (7) (b) (6),. (b) (6) did not know anything about 'routine' sample collection, but she said █████ checks the lead and copper every couple of years. Upon hearing this, █████ and (b) (6) decided to mark (b) (6), spigot with magic marker and to wire the meter pit closed. Additionally, they went to another sampling location - (b) (6), (b) (6) house. They also marked (b) (6), spigot and dummy-wired the meter. This was done to check if █████ came out to the spigot or meter to collect the sample instead of using an interior faucet. Both █████ and (b) (6) took photos, and █████ said he would figure out how to get them off his phone.

After the reported sampling date, █████ (b) (6), and (b) (6) pulled a detailed history report for (b) (6), house using software on a district laptop called Easy Profiler. They checked the water usage on the date of the sampling and determined no water had been used at the house until after 08:00 (when █████ usually arrives at work). They didn't run a report on (b) (6), house because he gets up early and has kids, so they assumed his water usage would not be an indicator. Neither did they run sampling reports on any other sampling sites. The system used to monitor water usage in Cass #9 is HotRod by Mueller. The district's Mueller representative is (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (7)).

During the time when █████ was getting low chlorine readings (about six months ago), █████ said 'Tri County' (where Cass #9 gets their water) experienced low chlorine readings, and this would have extended down to its customers. █████ opined this was the reason for his low readings while working on the water main issues. █████ stated he wondered what Cass #9's chlorine readings were during that time period because he assumed █████ had falsified the reported readings without knowing about the chlorine dip. Cass #9 purchases water from Tri County and does not add chlorine to their drinking water. He advised to check the districts above and below Cass #9 to compare their reported chlorine levels. Upstream to Cass #9 is District 5, and downstream is District 4 followed by 11. █████ provided contact info for each office:

District 5 office - 816-540-2249

District 4 office - 816-884-3282; operator █████

District 11 office - 816-773-8510; operator █████

Because █████ is no longer allowed to collect the drinking water samples, █████ now collects the samples. In December 2017, he took two days to sample the six sites. He collects two samples the first day and four the second. He collects the samples at a sink inside the residence using the following sample collection procedure:

Turn the water on to flush the system (about five to 10 minutes at 5-10 gallons/minute).

While flushing, prepares Hach meter to test total chlorine.

Flame nozzle if possible (not routine). Each district truck has a propane torch.

If chlorine reading is 'good,' collect sample. The sample volume is three to four ounces of water.

Theoretically, if a sample from the faucet is bad, one might take the meter off to collect a sample, but this would be an involved process and would take about 10 minutes. █████ didn't think █████ would collect samples this way on a routine basis because █████ has a bad right hand. █████ had an accident as a child

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and can mostly just hold items in his right hand. [REDACTED] will shake hands with his left hand.

In addition to (b) (6), (b) allegations about the sample collection, he stated he discovered [REDACTED] had added his wife's iPad to the district's cellular service. [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] also uses district money to buy meat (as Christmas gifts) for the board and other district employees.

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